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Letter to the Editor

Assessing the psychological response to the COVID-19: A response to Bitan et al. "Fear of COVID-19 scale: Psychometric characteristics, reliability and validity in the Israeli population"



The worldwide development of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has resulted in a number of challenges for healthcare providers (Lin, 2020). One such challenge is to understand the psychological responses toward the fear of COVID-19. To overcome this particular challenge, the present authors co-developed the Fear of COVID-19 Scale (FCV-19S), an instrument with promising psychometric properties that healthcare providers can use to quickly understand the fear of individuals during COVID-19 outbreak (Ahorsu et al., 2020). More recently, Bitan et al. (2020) translated the FCV-19S into Hebrew for Israeli population and found that the Hebrew FCV-19S had good psychometric properties. However, unlike the single factor found in other published FCV-19S validation studies (e.g., Ahorsu et al., 2020; Sakib et al., 2020; Satıcı et al., 2020; Soraci et al., 2020), Bitan et al. (2020) proposed a two-factor model for the Hebrew FCV-19S. However, the present authors would like to comment on the statistical analysis that Bitan et al. (2020) used to identify the two-factor structure.

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